

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please find below a listing of all of the pending claims. The statuses of the claims are set forth in parentheses.

1.-31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently Amended) A method of discovering that a particular network node having an assigned address has been connected to a computer network including (a) plural nodes, one of which is the particular node, and (b) a server arrangement including a network portion and a discovery portion, the method comprising:

responding to the establishment of the connection of the particular network node to the network by transmitting an initial request from the particular node to the network portion of the server arrangement via the network, the initial access request including the assigned address of the particular node; the network portion of the server arrangement responding to the initial access request by initiating a discovery request and deriving an indication of the assigned address of the particular node;

the network portion supplying the discovery request and the assigned address of the particular node to the discovery portion only after the network portion has determined that the particular node is an authentic node of the network;

the discovery portion responding to the discovery request applied to the discovery portion by the network portion by storing the assigned address of the particular node and initiating a discovery program that performs a discovery procedure for that particular node in response to the supplying of the discovery request and the assigned address of the particular node to the discovery portion;

the discovery procedure for the particular node including polling other nodes in the network to determine a network topography, the polled network typography including at least some of the other nodes to which the particular node is connected, and the configuration of the particular node.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the discovery portion receives a sequence of discovery requests including assigned addresses of various nodes of the network which have requested access to the network, the discovery portion storing the assigned addresses of the received requests from the various nodes.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33 wherein the sequence of assigned addresses is stored as a stack that the discovery portion processes in first-in-first-out order.

35. (Currently Amended) A method of discovering that a particular network node having an assigned address has been connected to a computer network including (a) plural nodes, one of which is the particular node, and (b) a server arrangement including a network portion and a discovery portion, the method comprising:

responding to the establishment of the connection of the particular network node to the network by transmitting an initial request from the particular node to the network portion of the server arrangement via the network, the initial access request including the assigned address of the particular node; the network portion of the server arrangement responding to the initial access request by initiating a discovery request and deriving an indication of the assigned address of the particular node;

the network portion supplying the discovery request and the assigned address of the particular node to the discovery portion only after the network portion has determined that the particular node is an authentic node of the network;

the discovery portion responding to the discovery request applied to the discovery portion by the network portion by storing the assigned address of the particular node and initiating a discovery program that performs a discovery procedure for the particular node in response to the supplying of the discovery request and the assigned address of the particular node to the discovery portion;

the discovery procedure for the particular node including determining status information about the particular node and the discovery procedure further including polling other nodes in the network to determine a network topography, the polled network typography including at least some of the other nodes to which the particular node is connected, and the configuration of the particular node.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35 wherein the discovery portion receives a sequence of discovery requests including assigned addresses of various nodes of the network which have requested access to the network, the discovery portion storing the assigned addresses of the received requests from the various nodes.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 wherein the sequence of assigned addresses is stored as a stack that the discovery portion processes in first-in-first-out order.

38. (Previously Presented) A storage medium or device storing machine-readable information for causing a processor to execute the steps of claim 32 on the network of claim 32.

39. (Previously Presented) A storage medium or device storing machine-readable information for causing a processor to execute the steps of claim 35 on the server arrangement of claim 35.

40. (Currently Amended) A server arrangement including machine-readable information executed by a processor, the server arrangement for discovering that a particular network node having an assigned address has been connected to a computer network including plural nodes, one of which is the particular node, the server arrangement including:

a network portion and a discovery portion;

the network portion being arranged to respond to the establishment of the connection of the particular network node to the network by the particular node transmitting an initial request to the network portion of the server arrangement via the network, the initial access request including the assigned address of the particular node;

the network portion being arranged to respond to the initial access request by initiating a discovery request and deriving an indication of the assigned address of the particular node;

the network portion being arranged to supply the discovery request and the assigned address of the particular node to the discovery portion only after the network portion has determined that the particular node is an authentic node of the network;

the discovery portion being arranged to respond to the discovery request applied to the discovery portion by the network portion by storing the assigned address of the particular node and initiating a discovery program that performs a discovery procedure for the particular node in response to the supplying of the discovery request and the assigned address of the particular node to the discovery portion;

the discovery procedure for the particular node including polling other nodes in the network to determine a network topography, the polled network typography including at least some of the other nodes to which the particular node is connected, and the configuration of the particular node.

41. (Previously Presented) The server arrangement of claim 40 wherein the discovery portion is arranged to receive a sequence of delivery requests including assigned addresses of various nodes of the network which have requested access to the network and includes a storage for storing the assigned addresses on the received requests from the various nodes.

42. (Previously Presented) The server arrangement of claim 41 wherein the storage is arranged to store the sequence of assigned addresses as a stack, the discovery portion being arranged to process the stack in first-in-first-out order.

43. (Currently Amended) A server arrangement including machine-readable information executed by a processor, the server arrangement for discovering that a particular network node having an assigned address has been connected to a computer

network including plural nodes, one of which is the particular node, the server arrangement including:

 a network portion and a discovery portion;

 the network portion being arranged to respond to the establishment of the connection of the particular network node to the network by the particular node transmitting an initial request to the network portion of the server arrangement via the network, the initial access request including the assigned address of the particular node;

 the network portion of the server arrangement being arranged to respond to the initial access request by initiating a discovery request and deriving an indication of the assigned address of the particular node;

 the network portion being arranged to supply the discovery request and the assigned address of the particular node to the discovery portion only after the network portion has determined that the particular node is an authentic node of the network;

 the discovery portion being arranged to respond to the discovery request applied to the discovery portion by the network portion by storing the assigned address of the particular node and initiating a discovery program that performs a discovery procedure for the particular node in response to the supplying of the discovery request and the assigned address of the particular node to the discovery portion;

 the discovery procedure for the particular node including determining status information about the particular node and the discovery procedure further including polling other nodes in the network to determine a network topography, the polled network typography including at least some of the other nodes to which the particular node is connected, and the configuration of the particular node.

44. (Previously Presented) The server arrangement of claim 43 wherein the discovery portion is arranged to receive a sequence of delivery requests including assigned addresses of various nodes of the network which have requested access to the network and includes a storage for storing the assigned addresses on the received requests from the various nodes.

45. (Previously Presented) The server arrangement of claim 44 wherein the storage is arranged to store the sequence of assigned addresses as a stack, the discovery portion being arranged to process the stack in first-in-first-out order.

46. (Currently Amended) A computer network for discovering that a particular network node having an assigned address has been connected to the computer network, the network comprising:

a server arrangement including machine-readable information executed by a processor; and

plural nodes, one of which is the particular node;

the server arrangement including:

a network portion and a discovery portion, the network portion being arranged to respond to the establishment of the connection of the particular network node to the network by the particular node transmitting an initial request to the network portion of the server arrangement via the network,

the initial access request including the assigned address of the particular node, the network portion of the server arrangement being arranged to respond to the

initial access request by initiating a discovery request and deriving an indication of the assigned address of the particular node,

the network portion being arranged to supply the discovery request and the assigned address of the particular node to the discovery portion only after the network portion has determined that the particular node is an authentic node of the network,

the discovery portion being arranged to respond to the discovery request applied to the discovery portion by the network portion by storing the assigned address of the particular node and initiating a discovery program that performs a discovery procedure for the particular node in response to the supplying of the discovery request and the assigned address of the particular node to the discovery portion,

the discovery procedure for the particular node including determining status information about the particular node and the discovery procedure further including polling other nodes in the network to determine a network topography, the polled network typography including at least some of the other nodes to which the particular node is connected, and the configuration of the particular node.

47. (Previously Presented) The computer network of claim 46 wherein the discovery portion is arranged to receive a sequence of delivery requests including assigned addresses of various nodes of the network which have requested access to the network and includes a storage for storing the assigned addresses on the received requests from the various nodes.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the particular node includes a portable computer and a docking station, the docking station responding to the

portable computer being initially connected to the docking station by booting the portable computer and performing a logon dialog between the network portion of the server arrangement and the portable computer;

the logon dialog being the initial request;

the network portion of the server arrangement responding to the logon dialog from the portable computer by determining if the portable computer is an authentic node of the network;

the server arrangement, when connected to the portable computer that is an authentic node, functioning as a domain controller for the portable computer.